



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019 FROM THE UNION!

MODERN MARY This week's Opinion page includes multiple visual aids for enhanced comprehension and ease of use! A3

TERRY TORGERSON CARTOON

MAD RIVER

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# Humboldt's harrowing 2018

Daniel Mintz  
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – The past year saw the county taking on new bureaucratic work and addressing vexing issues such as opioid

abuse, climate change and homelessness.

Progress was made but much work remains and it will continue into 2019. One of the most labor-intensive pieces of it is part of

a historic change seen statewide.

California's cannabis milestone

The first day of 2018 made California history, as adult use cannabis legalization took effect.

The state's licensing system wasn't fully set up, however, and some dispensaries closed their doors for several days due to the uncertainty of state licensing.

Soon the confusion cleared – the state deferred to local permitting as a temporary licensing system ramped up. Humboldt County was well-positioned, having adopted a commercial production ordinance in 2016.

And by mid-January, the county had approved over 400 permanent and temporary cannabis permits. But it didn't take long for the burdens of enhanced regulation to become apparent.

At the February 13 Board of Supervisors meeting, scores of cannabis growers described their struggles to be permitted and continue to earn a living.

The objections focused on the way Measure S, the county's cannabis excise tax ordinance, was being implemented and many people told supervisors that an avalanche of regulation-related costs drains the community's economic life.

But there was also demand for more stringent regulation. When supervisors considered an update of its production ordinance in late March, the Friends of the Eel River watershed protection group, the Yurok tribe and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife called for holding off on further permitting.

The tribe and Friends of the Eel issued a joint press release demanding "tougher cannabis regulations"

On May 8, supervisors approved what was described as a "historic" updated ordinance for commercial cannabis. It caps the number of additional cultivation permits at 3,500, which covers 1,205 acres.

2018 ♦ A2

MODEST MONITOR The small Bayside weather station (normally not a Mary Pop-pins landing site). SUBMITTED

## Doing something about the weather

Kevin L. Hoover  
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – If knowledge is power, then Scott Carroll is countering the old saw about everyone complaining about the weather and no one doing anything about it.

Carroll singlehandedly operates the Arcata Weather Observatory, a website – [arcataweather.com](http://arcataweather.com) – and Twitter feed – @ArcataWx – that provides weather geeks with a wealth of information about the state of the skies.

And not just the skies, but everything to do with weather – current conditions, statistics, astronomical data, webcams, maps, links and more.

The retro-styled website – its banner appropriately enough in a distressed, archaic font – delivers the goods without a lot of fancy modern styling, and it's ad-free.

Much of the info feeds are drawn from the National Weather Service, where Carroll

ARCATA WEATHER ♦ A4



## LOVERS LANE PACOUT



1,020 POUNDS of garbage and debris were packed out of Samoa's Lovers Lane Turnout Saturday morning as part of PacOut Green Team's weekly campaign to clean up the landscape. Top, a stream of volunteers with their retrievals. Above, the customary group photo. Left, the vast morass of scavenged clothing, household items and garbage. PacOut Green Team was founded in February of 2013 by Tim Haywood along with other then-employees of Pacific Outfitters. Every week it selects a polluted beach, park, trail or road and provides volunteers with the tools to help clean it up. "We have everything ready to go for you," Haywood said. "Out for an hour, short and sweet." After the cleanup, a raffle rewards participants with a gift card or other prize from a PacOut sponsor. Facebook/PacOut Green Team

PHOTOS COURTESY TED HALSTEAD; LEFT PHOTO COURTESY AARON OSTROM | PACOUT GREEN TEAM



### ♦ ARCATA RETAIL CANNABIS

## Permits sought for cannabis stores

Jack Durham  
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – The Arcata Planning Commission will consider issuing permits for two new cannabis stores proposed for Downtown Arcata at its meeting Tuesday, Jan. 9 beginning at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 736 F St.

Humboldt County's oldest head shop, Pacific Paradise at 1087 H St., is seeking a use permit to sell cannabis in the existing retail setting. The applicant doesn't plan to make any changes to the exterior of the building, but will create a secure storage area inside and will install an odor filtration system.

According to an application submitted to the city, Pacific Paradise will create a lounge area inside the store where patrons can sit in vintage theater seats from the old Arcata Theatre and read the store's cannabis menu while waiting for their

budtenders. The store will feature locally grown cannabis products and will occasionally offer celebrity cannabis lines such as Chong's Choice and Willie's Reserve.

The store's proposed hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

The other proposed store is called Fireplace, and would be located at 1041 F St., Suite A. Like Pacific Paradise, the store would include a secure storage area as well as security and cameras. The store would be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Arcata planning staff is recommending approval for both projects. If the commission agrees, Arcata would have a total of four cannabis stores. Existing cannabis retailers include the Humboldt Patient Resource Center at 980 Sixth St. and Heart of Humboldt at 601 I St.

## Wheeler resigns from MCSD board

Jack Durham  
MAD RIVER UNION

MCKINLEYVILLE – Due to an ongoing battle with cancer, George Wheeler has resigned from the McKinleyville Community Services District Board of Directors.

"Due to recent medical developments, I will be unable to continue as a MCSD director," Wheeler wrote in his Dec. 10 resignation letter. "The last five years on the board has been one of the more educational and rewarding endeavors in my life. It is with great regret that I am unable to continue."

"For the last 18 years, I have been engaged in a struggle with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma," Wheeler wrote. "In the last few months, the cancer has transformed into an extremely aggressive version of itself, with multiple hospitalizations that have made it impossible to perform my duties as director."

Wheeler was reelected to a second term on the board on Nov. 6, less than five weeks before he resigned. He was the top vote getter, with 27.11 percent, for the three open seats. The MCSD board will meet today, Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. at Azalea Hall, 1620 Pickett Rd. to discuss how to fill the vacancy. Staff is recommending that the seat be filled by appointment.

If the board agrees with the recommendation, applicants would have until Wednesday, Jan. 30 to submit letters of interest. The board would make an appointment at its Feb. 6 meeting and the new board member would be sworn in on March 6.

Concluding his letter, Wheeler wrote "God willing, I will recover even from this and rejoin the work of MCSD from the folding chairs. Thank you to everyone who helped me grow into the job of director."

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# OPINION

## Well, at least we have a lot of choices for what to worry about



**FAST WESTLAND** The scene at Giuntoli Lane and Valley West Boulevard. Like the Plaza, Valley West needs more than just symbolic support. LUCY SALAZAR PHOTO

### \$150K and a task force for the Plaza, crumbs for Valley West

According to the *Mad River Union*, the brand new Arcata Plaza Improvement Task Force has been given \$150,000 to “enact whatever solutions on which it may decide.” Their first public meeting produced a long list of “nuisances” experienced by Plaza users including: drug and alcohol use, aggression by travelers, fights, dog poop, vomit, cigarettes and butts, needles, lack of law enforcement, people of color being fearful of police, lack of inclusivity, the McKinley statue, difficult access and parking, fear for what children may observe and an overall unsafe feeling.

Except for the McKinley statue, this same list could equally describe current conditions in Valley West, the northern neighborhood of Arcata. But there are many additional issues that occur daily in Valley West.

Police response to Valley West (five miles away) is much longer than their response to the Plaza (one block away). Motel Row, which annually contributes more than \$1 million in Transient Occupancy Taxes to the city’s budget, is in Valley West. Along with residents and employees, out of the area visitors are also exposed to these growing “nuisances.”

The City has finally installed a real trash can and recycling bin in front of the McDonald’s bus stop (the only enacted recommendation from a February 2017 Valley West Visioning Workshop). The street light over this bus stop has been out for three weeks now. There’s a huge trash pile at the northern corner of Giuntoli Lane and Valley West Boulevard, but since it’s in the county’s jurisdiction, it stays there for weeks.

The other day there were several trash bags on the roof of the vacant building on Valley West Boulevard. The bus stops on the 35 mph portion of Giuntoli Lane require residents to either jaywalk or walk an extra mile (there and back) in order to use a crosswalk.

The bus stops on Giuntoli Lane are pitch black at night, putting bus riders at extra risk. (Eureka has solved this problem by installing solar powered lights at bus stops.) And the list goes on and on.

I sincerely wish the Arcata Plaza Improvement Task Force well in their effort. But maybe they can funnel a small portion of their \$150,000 budget to Valley West because we really are in this together. What happens or doesn’t happen in Valley West reflects on the rest of Arcata.

The City continues to distribute crumbs to Valley West and instead focus their efforts and money on more meetings and front page photo ops.

We are cleaning the streets and sidewalks in Valley West the first Sunday of every month, from 9 to 11 a.m. Come join us on Jan. 6 at the Valley West Park on Hallen Drive. The city will provide buckets and garbage grabbers, and we will provide the people power. Every little bit helps.

**Lucy Salazar**  
Arcata

### The glutinous threat blocking affordable healthcare

I do hope Jeff Pauli is planning for an early retirement where he can scramble for affordable healthcare with the rest of us.

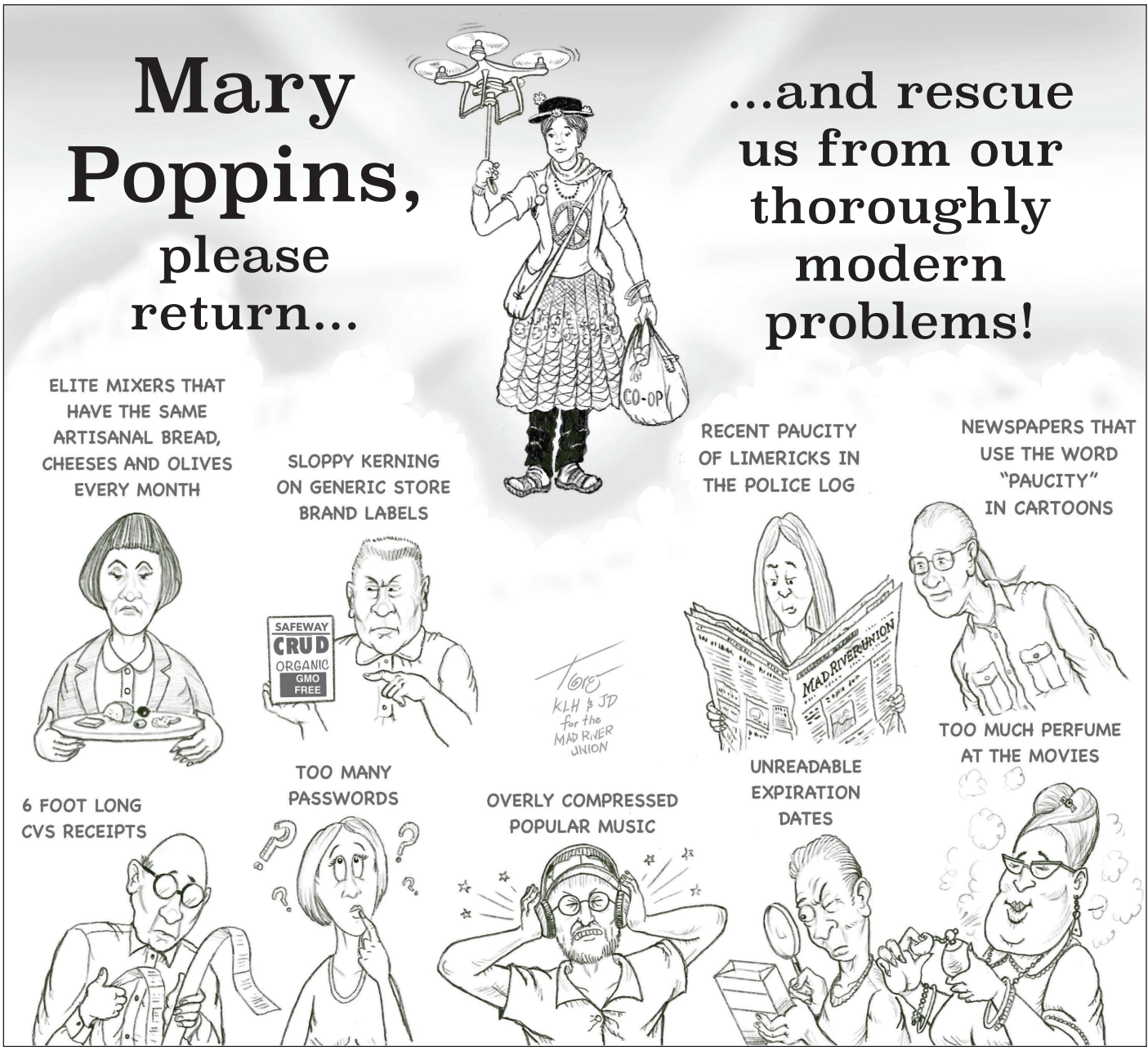
Never a fan of insurance, still I was pulling for the fellow right up until this sentence: “But the number one threat to our office is single-payer health insurance.”

Did the old manufacturing barons feel the same about child-labor laws?

The sooner the three quarters of a million nice caring people working for insurance companies get out of the way and stop blocking my access to affordable healthcare the better.

The problem with our health care system is the insurance industry and all the nice caring people who depend on it for a very nice livelihood. When that happens, Mr. Pauli and his 20 employees can join the rest of us in affordable healthcare without the impediment of a glutinous, alarmist, confounding mass of insurance sellers.

**P. Givins**  
Arcata



**ONE HOUR’S WALK** along the Mad River yielded this much plastic debris. KEN MILLER PHOTO

### Microplastics are fleecing the planet – inVEST in our beaches

An inanimate contribution from our very own closets, drawers, and kitchens is infiltrating everywhere. Too small to be filtered out by waste treatment plants, microfibers are found in a third of aquatic organisms, two-thirds of aquatic species, and an astonishing 85 percent of shoreline pollutants.

A single garment can produce over 1,900 fibers per wash load. The *New York Times* (Dec. 11) reported that “Concentrations [of microplastics] in the remote Arctic Ocean are higher than all other ocean basins in the world...” and “in Arctic sea ice.”

“Poly” garments, and nearly 95 percent of the world’s clothing, come from the 100 million tons of polyester produced annually. Polyethylene terephthalate, or PET is made mostly from petroleum products like natural gas and recycled bottles. Houston-based LyondellBasell will manufacture 1.1 billion pounds a year of polyethylene in 2019. Eighty-five percent of the fibrous end product comes from China, choking its waterways with plastic residues.

Much of PET ends up in watercourses as millions of microfibers from clothing and other products made of acrylic, nylon, and polyester fleece are washed “away.”

Less frequent washing, using cold water, liquid detergents, low velocity spin cycles, and mesh strainers like the Guppy Bag and dryer lint filters, can reduce microfiber releases. Patagonia offers free Guppy Bags, even as they inundate the market with ever-lasting fleece. Fibers from in-stream washing worldwide cannot be mitigated.

PET-eating bacteria and fungi can consume these plastics slowly, but produce CO<sub>2</sub>; and incineration, either in facilities or house fires, combusts them into god knows what. Composting bioplastics releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The “plastisphere” favors high rates of bacterial gene exchange, an alarming situation that can induce antibiotic resistance. Microplastics from photodegradation of macro-plastics, which, at 5.5 trillion oceanic pieces, will soon

out-populate fish.

Conventionally produced cotton utilizes mountains of hazardous pesticides and fertilizers, and displaces crucial food-producing cropland. Organically produced fibers remain a luxury, but industrial hemp is promising (as would global population reduction).

**Ken Miller**  
McKinleyville



**PLEASE RETURN THIS STOLEN RACK** It is much more than just shelves to the theft victim. Contact [LHP3@liscomhillpottery.com](mailto:LHP3@liscomhillpottery.com). MARK CORTRIGHT PHOTO

### Give back this special rack

Christmas is a time of giving, but on the night of Friday Dec. 21, someone stole something very special from me.

At my pottery booth in the Uniontown Shopping Center, in front of Arcata Pet Supplies, someone stole a shelf rack that a good friend of mine had made.

He passed away last year of cancer and that rack was a solid connection to him every time I set it up. I always thought of him, as he had made a matched pair for me to display my pottery on.

I have used racks like this for the past 39 years in my sales at Uniontown with zero trouble. I’m hoping those who took this will find it in yourselves to return it to me as it means more to me than just a bunch of wood.

If you need a stereo or book or paint can rack I will gladly give you one that has no personal connection to my lost friend. Please do the right thing and return it to me – no questions asked. If you know these thieves please let them know what is right.

Hopefully there is still honor among thieves. Contact [LHP3@liscomhillpottery.com](mailto:LHP3@liscomhillpottery.com).

Thanks,  
**Mark Cortright**  
McKinleyville

❖ Sign your letter to the *Mad River Union* with a real name and a city of origin, plus a phone number (which won’t be published) for identity verification. Try and keep your letter to 300 words or so, maybe 500 max, or call us about doing a column.

E-mail letters to [opinion@madriverunion.com](mailto:opinion@madriverunion.com). Additional pointers:  
• Make paragraphs every so often  
• Use your spell checker  
• Don’t use Martian punctuation

• Apostrophes aren’t quotation marks; commas aren’t apostrophes  
• When you put double spaces between sentences, you’re riding with Hitler.  
• “Alot” isn’t a word.




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## Songwriter brings his earthy style to Arcata

ARCATA PLAYHOUSE

ARCATA — Songwriter Jeffrey Foucault brings his earthy style to the Arcata Playhouse in support of his new release *Blood Brothers* on Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general and \$18 for Humboldt Folklife and Playhouse members. The Arcata Playhouse is located at 1251 Ninth St. in Arcata's Creamery District.

Following the austere electricity of the critically acclaimed 2015 album, *Salt As Wolves*, *Blood Brothers* is a collection of reveries, interlacing memory with the present tense to examine the indelible connections of love across time and distance.

The title track is an aching ballad of lost love, written with drummer Billy Conway and embroidered with the impossibly soft and near-transparent lilt of Iowa's Pieta Brown.

A departure from the darkness of his last outing, *Blood Brothers* sets blues aside to pull together

## AT THE PLAYHOUSE



**WEATHER BEATEN DRAWL** Jeffrey Foucault is coming to the Arcata Playhouse on Tuesday, Jan. 8. *The New Yorker* raved "Jeffrey Foucault, sings stark, literate songs that are as wide open as the landscape of his native Midwest." *The New York Times* stated "Immaculately tailored... Sometimes his songs run right up to the edge of the grandiose and hold still, and that's when he's best."

SUBMITTED PHOTO

strands of country, R&B, gospel, rock'n'roll, and folk in a series of delicate small-canvas portraits. There's a touch more light coming through the window, a certain gentleness in play, with layers of backing vocals sung by women — including Foucault's wife Kris Delmhurst, as well as the various partners of the

band — adding hue and shade.

Charting a vision of American music without cheap imitation or self-conscious irony, the ensemble on the album deploys an instinctive restraint and use of negative space, an economy of phrase and raw simplicity that complement perfectly Foucault's elegant

lines and weather-beaten drawl.

As noise and politics, fashion and illusion obtrude on all fronts, *Blood Brothers* is a deep breath and a step inward, with tenderness and human concern, paying constant attention to the places where the mundane and the holy merge like water.

In language pared to element, backed by his world-class band, Foucault considers the nature of love and time in 10 songs free of ornament, staking out and enlarging the ground he's been working diligently all the new century: quietly building a deep, resonant catalogue of songs about love, memory, God, desire, wilderness and loss.

Music starts at 8 p.m. with doors at 7:30 p.m. The show is presented in association with the Humboldt Folklife Society. Tickets are available at Wildberries Marketplace, [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or reserve at (707) 822-1575.



## IN MEMORY

**REMEMBERING JACK TURNER JR.** During the All Seasons Orchestra's Holiday Concert and Beethoven's Birthday Party Dec. 16, there was an empty chair in the orchestra in memory of long-time bassoon player John "Jack" Turner Jr. The concert was dedicated to his memory. Rehearsals are held most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the D Street Neighborhood Center in Arcata. For information, call Dick LaForge at (707) 443-2626.

MOONLIGHT MACUMBER | UNION



**FREE OTTER TALK** The Sequoia Park Zoo Conservation Lecture Series continues Wednesday, Jan. 9 with a lecture titled "North Coast Otters: Merging Citizen Art & Science", presented by Jeff Black of the Humboldt State University Wildlife Department. The lecture will be held in the Zoo's Flamingo Room at 7 p.m. and preceded by a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come hear the progress in preparing North Coast Otters, a public arts initiative launching summer 2020, when an educational Otter Art trail will play host to 100 Otter Art sculptures at sites throughout the North Coast, from Mendocino to Del Norte. The Otter Art will be displayed at shops, restaurants, visitor centers and galleries and then auctioned off at the end of the summer to raise valuable funds for HSU student internships with the many grassroots watershed programs in our community. The project's goal is to build community on the theme "clean water and healthy habitats where we live and play," with the charismatic river otter as the poster child. Some of the otter art will portray healthy habitats, while others will show otters simply having fun outside! The Sequoia Park Zoo is located at 3414 W St., Eureka.

PHOTO BY ALLEN PETERSON

## Disaster seminar in McK

As a McKinleyville business owner, have you ever wondered what you should do if a natural disaster happened during business hours? What do you do with your staff? With your customers? There are countless photos on social media showing the damage in businesses after the recent 7.0 earthquake that occurred in Alaska. Not to mention the roads that have buckled, preventing any travel on those roadways.

Here is your opportunity to gather information to assist in building your own disaster preparedness plan. This promises to be two hours packed with information! Join the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Dow's Prairie Grange, 3995 Dow's Prairie Rd. for a presentation by Angelina Gregorio.

Gregorio is a retired National Park Service ranger who has worked in all aspects of public safety and emergency response.

Since moving to Humboldt County in 2012, she has used her Park Service experience and training in



**MCKINLEYVILLE  
MATTERS**

her current position as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Mad River Community Hospital and as a community disaster planning educator.

Items that will be discussed include:

- The local emergency preparedness landscape
- What business continuity means to you
- Assessing your own vulnerabilities and liabilities
- Local threats and hazards
- Sources of information
- Preparedness recommendations

Please call the McKinleyville Chamber at (707) 839-2449 to register to attend.

**Beard Growing to help McK Teen Venter**

Last year's "Brew Your Beard" contest brought out some of the best; long beards, weird beards, bold beards and old beards.

**MCKMATTERS ♦ B2**

## ❖ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 'Drifting Between a Rock and a Hard Place'

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EUREKA — Master storyteller and Mad River Rconteur Paul Woodland presents "Drifting Between a Rock and a Hard Place" at the Humboldt County Historical Society program meeting on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 1 p.m., in the first-floor conference room of the Humboldt County Library, 1313 Third St., Eureka. Admission is free, and everyone is invited.



**Paul  
Woodland**

In Northern California, a novice explorer is unwittingly set adrift in the turbulent waters of the Klamath River during the Flood of 1964, while an experienced Kentucky cave explorer finds himself stuck between a rock and a hard place during the "Cave Wars" of 1925.

These two distinctly different characters and their harrowing adventures snagged the attention of the media, in their era, and held the public's fascination until the final details of their gripping tales were revealed. Then, inexplicably, the stories about them started to fade from our nation's consciousness like the print on an old newspaper.

That is, until Paul Woodland, a local practitioner of the oral tradition, started to resurrect the stories about these two fabled adventurers and return them to their rightful place in American folklore.

You are invited to hear the riveting tales of W. F. Collins (spelunker) and Bahamas (navigator), two famous explorers who are once again the talk of the town, and rightfully so. For more information contact the Humboldt County Historical Society at (707) 445-4342, or visit [humboldthistory.org/](http://humboldthistory.org/).



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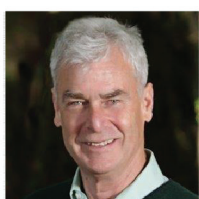
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**STUDENT SPEAKERS CONTEST** The McKinleyville Lions club is currently searching for students in the ninth through 12th grades who are interested in participating in the California Lions’ 82nd Annual Student Speakers Contest. The topic is “Freedom of the Press: What does it mean?” Speeches are to be five to 10 minutes in length. This is a six level speech contest with the possibility of cash prizes totaling \$500 and scholarships totaling \$21,000. The McKinleyville club level contests will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. Deadline to sign up is Friday, Jan. 25. To view the handbook, you may visit the MD-4 Lions Student Speakers website at [studentspeaker.md4lions.org/](http://studentspeaker.md4lions.org/). For more information or to sign up to participate, please call Cyndi at (707) 496-9724. There are seven clubs in Humboldt County. If you are not in the McKinleyville area, you will be put in contact with the club in your area.

## Temporary closure at HWMA

**HUMBOLDT WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
EUREKA – The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 1059 West Hawthorne St. in Eureka will be temporarily closed for facility floor upgrade for a one-week period from Friday, Jan. 11 to Friday, Jan. 18. The facility will resume operations on Monday, Jan. 21.  
During this one-week period, the hazardous waste facility will be closed and unable to accept any household or business generated hazardous waste. The facility floor upgrade includes installation of a cementitious mortar overlay, installation of impervious berms and waterproofing of existing sumps within the building.  
“Periodic facility upgrades such as these ensure our HHW facility is up-to-date and capable of proper handling and storage of hazardous waste received by HWMA” said Jill Duffy, HWMA executive director. “We apologize for any temporary inconvenience to our customers, and we encourage residents and businesses to either schedule appointment prior to January 11th or after January 21st.”  
Regular hours of operation at the HHW facility are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for residential and business customers. Appointments are required for business customers. The facility is also open on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for residential customers only.  
Legal limits are enforced for quantities of hazardous waste that customers can transport in a vehicle at one time. Residential customers may bring up to 15-gallons of liquid material, or 125 lbs. of solid material. Business customers may bring up to 27 gallons of liquid or 220 lbs. of solid material per vehicle once per calendar month.  
Disposal of household hazardous waste is free of charge for residential customers. Business customers are charged disposal fees, based on the type of material.  
For more information, visit [www.HWMA.net](http://www.HWMA.net) or call (707) 441-2005 Monday through Friday.

**GRIEF SUPPORT** Hospice of Humboldt offers free, drop-in grief support groups every week. In Arcata, meetings are held on Mondays from 6

to 7:30 p.m. at Jacoby’s Storehouse, 791 Eighth St., fourth floor conference room. In Eureka, meetings are held on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 2:30 p.m.; Saturdays (Slipper Club – casual drop-in session), 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Hospice office, 3327 Timber Fall Ct.

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## ❖ EMPLOYMENT

**Visiting Angels** is seeking Caregivers, CNAs & HHAs to assist seniors in Fortuna, McKinleyville, and Eureka. Part-time and Full-time, flexible hours. Please call 707-362-8045.

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# ...in order to form a more perfect union...

This first column of 2019 is a tribute to the weekly newspaper you are reading today, the *Mad River Union*, and a reflection on the role such a local forum for local news and ideas plays in giving the North Coast a sense of place and community.

The staff and writers for the newspaper were treated by the editors and publishers to dinner at Maz-zotti’s in Arcata Dec. 20 as a “thank you for a good year” evening.

I brought an anecdote to share from a recent book club selection titled *The Men Who United the States: America’s Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics, and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible* by British-American author Simon Winchester.

However, the festive atmosphere was too lively, fun and noisy to give a proper serious toast and tribute. So I shared some of Winchester’s story across the table to Editor Jack Durham and his wife, Kim and repeating it here.

Simon Winchester, became a citizen of the United States on July 4, 2011 and lives in Sandisfield, Massachusetts. He is an admirer of American author, Sherwood Anderson, who wrote “Winesburg, Ohio,” a classic in American literature, in 1919. Winchester wanted to write a similar novel about his hometown of Sandisfield, but decided Anderson had already

done a fine job of telling tales of small town American characters, opinions and life. So instead, he did something else. He and a group of writers, mostly admirers of Sherwood Anderson, “started a local monthly newspaper,



*The Sandisfield Times*,” published first in 2010 and “in the years since it has become, to the surprise of all, an essential part of village life, required reading for everyone – like the *Winesburg Eagle* in fact, but a century later.”  
Winchester continued, “The paper is now popular, needed, and ceaselessly written to, and it has brought to Sandisfield something that the village has never truly enjoyed in all of its 250 years of incorporated existence: a sense of community, a common sense of unity.... our newspaper has volunteers today whose ethnic origins are Italian, Greek, Scots, Irish, Japanese, Dutch and Chinese. But all, in a uniquely American manner, see virtue and power in the new harmony that they have made, which manifests itself in the modest document that all can see and read on the first day of each month.”

Winchester’s ruminations end with this: “This new sense of harmony may have been a long time coming to Sandisfield, Massachusetts, and there are other communities within the country that are more isolated and forgotten than ours, where disunity is

more likely to be the watchword. Yet it cannot and should not be forgotten that the story of the United States of America is still a developing one, a continuing evolution, and that the union becomes ever stronger as a result of the pressures of steady change. After all, the very notion of change informs the Preamble to the United States Constitution: ‘We the people...in order to form a more perfect union...’ The union, it was recognized back in the late eighteenth century, has to be made ever more perfect all the time. Our small-town newspaper is just one more step on the way. This is how it is done – our way, the American way.”

Hats off to Kevin Hoover and Jack Durham, both veteran journalists from small local newspapers, the *Arcata Union*, the *Arcata Eye* and the *McKinleyville Press* before they joined talent and time to produce the *Mad River Union* to give local perspective and news to the northwest coast once a week. For our interconnected communities, Arcata, Blue Lake, Fieldbrook, McKinleyville, Manila, Samoa, Trinidad and Orick, the weekly newspaper inspires a sense of place, belonging, and unity, even during divisions in views and perspectives, not unlike how Simon Winchester dedicates part of his time on the northeast coast.

Thank you *Mad River Union* and Happy 2019 wishes to one and all.

Email Patti at [baycity@sonic.net](mailto:baycity@sonic.net).

**VICTOR JACOBY AWARD RECIPIENTS** Join us at the Morris Graves Museum of Art on Sunday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. for the opportunity to connect with the Victor Jacoby Award recipients. Victor Thomas Jacoby was a local artist whose medium was French tapestry. He was internationally renowned for innovation in his field. When Jacoby passed away in 1997, he left a generous bequest to set up a fund with Humboldt Area Foundation. Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Victor Thomas Jacoby Award and view the work of more than 20 artists that the award has supported. The works of these grantees will be showcased

alongside Jacoby’s tapestries and sketchbooks from the HAC Permanent Collection. Award recipients that will be featured in this month’s Art Talk include Sunni Scrivner, Julie McNeil, Monica Topping, Linda Hartshorn, Joan Gold, Laura Corsiglia, Lisa Enge and Monica Coyne. The Morris Graves Museum of Art, located at 636 F Street, Eureka is open to the public noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$2 for seniors (age 65 and over), military veterans, and students with ID; children 17 and under free; families with an EBT Card and valid ID receive free admission.

## Rotary Clubs team up for early literacy

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**HUMBOLDT** – The Humboldt County Office of Education’s (HCOE) Decade of Difference Early Literacy Partners Program, in partnership with HCOE’s Special Beginnings program, have teamed up with local Rotary clubs to promote early literacy to local preschoolers.

The Special Beginnings program assists children under five years of age with developmental delays by providing special education services. This program helps to prepare them to transition successfully into kindergarten programs in traditional school settings.

Seven Rotary and Rotaract Clubs have provided time and monetary contributions to purchase three highly recommended books by local preschool educators (*All Around Me*; *Bear Wants More* and *Brown*

*Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See*) to each of the 182 children in the Special Beginnings program.

Principal of Special Beginnings, Genevive Macias is grateful for the support. “Being able to provide families with high quality literature for their little ones is wonderful and gives them the tools to be engaged and support their child’s learning.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Chris Hartley agrees. “The importance of reading to and with our children is critical to their skill development, creativity, concentration, and interest in learning while providing precious moments with parents and others to relax and connect.”

Rotary partners in this effort included: The Rotary Club of Arcata Sunrise, Rotary Club of Eureka, Rotary Club of Ferndale, Rotary Club of Fortuna, Rotary

Club of Fortuna Sunrise, Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka and the North Bay Rotaract Club.

Members from the respective clubs met recently, following the HCOE Board of Trustees meeting to wrap up the books into individual gift bags and prepare them for delivery to families by the Special Beginnings staff.

“We at the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka have been helping humanity since 1969,” stated Club President Eddie Morgan. “We not only help globally, we also like to help locally. This partnership has been tremendous, and shows how local business people can make a difference; support people in our community who need it, and make things happen.”

“Our tremendous thanks to our local Rotarians for the gift of books and their time, energy and resources

to children in our county,” complemented Hartley.

Rotary is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Many local clubs have made early literacy for children a top priority and mission in their collective efforts.

The Early Literacy Partners Program supports students in preschool through second grade who are reluctant or struggling with reading or math by placing them with community volunteers who work one-on-one with them during school hours twice a week.

For more information about the Early Literacy Partners Program visit [hcoe.org/elp](http://hcoe.org/elp) or contact Olivia Kernen at (707) 445-7007.

## McKMatters | Teen center to develop drama program

❖ FROM B1

This year, Six Rivers Brewery hopes to see even more contestants take on their beard growing challenge.

Talia Nachshon, Six Rivers Brewery co-owner, is excited to make this contest an annual event, “I love seeing our community come together and have some fun in support of such a great organization.”

“Brew Your Beard” is an opportunity to keep the holiday giving spirit alive with

a little friendly competition. This fundraiser will raise money for the McKinleyville Parks & Recreation Teen Center. The McKinleyville Teen Center is a partnership between McKinleyville Community Services District and the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods. It currently serves close to 300 local youth ages 11 to 18.

Angelique Hennessy, McKinleyville Teen Center Unit Director, is excited to see the center partner with Six Rivers for a second year. She spoke of many new happenings which the contest will help support.

Currently, the Teen Center is working on a drama program that gives teens an outlet to express themselves and let their creativity shine. Funding is needed to help the program get cos-

tumes, props, and decorations that will create the best experience for the teens.

The Teen Center also currently hosts a Cooking Crew program twice a week. Here, youth can work together and learn how to cook meals for their peers and volunteers of the center.

Donations are always welcomed to help supply food and other materials to the program. Six Rivers is thrilled to help support these Teen Center activities through funds raised through the Brew Your Beard competition.

Sign ups started on Jan. 1 and will close on Jan. 7. Interested beard growing competitors just need to come into the brewery to fill out a registration form, take a starting photo, and pay the \$25 registration fee. The goal is for the con-

testants to refrain from shaving until March 17 when they will be judged at a “Beard Pageant” at the Brewery’s 15th anniversary celebration.

Last year required participants to arrive clean-shaven, but this year Six Rivers is opening up the competition to include existing beards – which they hope will make for a more interesting pageant display. Prizes will be awarded in multiple categories.

While the finale of this competition will no doubt be a hilarious good time, the real heart of the contest is raising money to help support programs at the Teen Center.

If individuals or businesses would like to donate funds or materials to the McKinleyville Teen Center, contact Angelique Hennessy, at (707) 840-0304.

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See crossword on page A2







# Welcome the New Year with a new dog from the shelter

Welcome to 2019! I know that I am looking forward to the positive change a new year can bring. I hope it has already started off well for all of you.

Redwood Pals has an old friend that is ready for a new home for the new year. Remember the dog stuck down on the north jetty last summer? Poor thing was there for several days we think and was a little tweaked by the time she got to the shelter.

She wasn't quite ready to go through the shelter for adoption at that time but she has regained both her looks and her confidence and is ready for that forever home. Aja is a lovely 3-year-old spayed female. Her looks indicate Husky or German Shepherd, though her mannerisms seem more like a cattle dog of some sort.

She is currently in a foster home with children ranging from babies to young teenagers and is doing great with them. She is also very dog-friendly and loves to play. Our foster says that she knows sit, stay, shake, no, and comes to a whistle. All of the commands could use some polishing up, but she has definitely known these in her life.

The cow dog comes out in her need for some strong leadership to help reign in some pup-like behavior, as she still sometimes acts like a doggy teenager although she is



❖ DOGTOWN  
Mara Segal



IMPROVEMENT Left, Aja after she was found skinny and abandoned on the North Jetty. Right, Aja today, happy and healthy.



and cats.

One of the nice dogs that you might meet there is Kermit, a leggy 1-year-old boy who might have Dutch Shepherd or Plott Hound in his lineage. Kermit has a lovely dark brindle coat and a perpetual quizzical expression.

He came in a bit shy but warms up quickly, especially if you might have some yummy treats on hand! Kermit is quite dog-friendly and has won over some of his kennel

mates with his gentle manners. He is young and a good candidate for further training in basic obedience as he is eager to please and loves to be petted.

Volunteers think that Kermit would be a good adventure partner, with his long legs and curious nature. Kermit is neutered, microchipped and current on his vaccinations. He is available through the Humboldt County Animal Shelter located at 980 Lycoming Ave. in McKinleyville, near the airport. More information about available animals can be found at [petharbor.com](http://petharbor.com) or by calling (707) 840-9132.



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## KEET-TV celebrates 50 years on the North Coast

**KEET-TV**  
HUMBOLDT– It was on April 14, 1969 that KEET-TV began broadcasting in Humboldt County, and plans are in place to celebrate our Golden Jubilee at the Carson Mansion fundraiser on Feb. 2. Save the date and join in our celebration, which will also include live music from Nice 'n Easy, and both silent and live auctions with Senator Mike McGuire as the live auctioneer.

"We have some very special items ready for this auction," said KEET-TV Executive Director David Gordon. "The mix of great food, good music and high octane auctioneering of Senator McGuire means it's a recipe for a great evening, all to support KEET-TV."

The Golden Jubilee event begins with no-host cocktails at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a menu of a salad of mixed field greens with pepitas, chevre, and a white balsamic vinaigrette, and petite filet mignon, served with whipped Yukon gold potatoes and asparagus. A veg-

etarian alternative of pasta primavera (fettuccini with sautéed vegetables, garlic, and herbs) will also be available.

Tickets are \$100 per person, and tables of 10 are available for \$800. This event is open to KEET-TV members and their guests. If you are interested in becoming a member of KEET-TV, call (707) 445-0813.

The list of silent and live auction items is growing each day, but consider bidding on these two live auction packages. The first is a two night stay in the Carson Mansion Carriage House that includes two dinners for two and transportation to and from your stay. The second is a one week stay at the Quarter House in New Orleans over the New Year 2020 holiday.

Silent auction items include a basket of Humboldt County made products, wine, and Humboldt State University Center Arts tickets. Stay tuned for more items as they become available. Like us on Facebook and then check back regularly for updates.

This Golden Jubilee

fundraising event at the Carson Mansion is more important than ever. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) has made it clear that if we cannot raise the \$800,000 required every year to continue to receive federal funding, it may cut off those funds and force KEET-TV to merge with a larger, out of the area public media organization such as KQED. After 50 years of broadcasting locally, this would be the end of KEET-TV as an independent, locally owned and operated public television station.

It's also important to note that the \$800,000 annual amount required by CPB is the same for KEET-TV as is for larger stations in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of the local community's participation in our Golden Jubilee and associated fundraisers," Gordon said. "It will take a united effort to raise the necessary funding, and we are asking for everyone's support to help us reach our goal."

For more information about KEET-TV's Golden Jubilee at the Carson Mansion fundraising celebration, please call (707) 445-0813.

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